

# TRICARE Europe

## Release

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Release Number: 03-11

Date: April 24, 2003

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### **TRICARE Updates Policy for Active Duty Family Members Participating in Noncombatant Evacuation Operations**

Active Duty family members in Europe, Africa, or the Middle East who temporarily relocate to remote locations in the U.S. due to a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) may now remain enrolled in TRICARE Europe Prime or TRICARE Europe Prime Remote for a maximum of 210 days, or up to 30 days from the time a return home is authorized or a permanent evacuation is ordered.

A new DoD Health Affairs policy authorizes this enrollment extension and clarifies TRICARE procedures for overseas Active Duty family members participating in NEOs who temporarily relocate to U.S. locations nearby or far away from a military Medical Treatment Facility (MTF).

Active Duty family members who return to the U.S. because of a NEO (a NEO can either be a mandatory or voluntary evacuation with official orders) have different healthcare options depending on where they temporarily reside and how long they stay:

#### ***Relocating to a CONUS Prime location***

TRICARE Europe Prime AD family member beneficiaries who return to a Prime area in the continental U.S. (CONUS) have 60 days from their date of departure from their overseas location to enroll in a stateside TRICARE Prime program. On the 61<sup>st</sup> day, they will be disenrolled from TRICARE Europe and will revert to TRICARE Standard if no action is taken.

A TRICARE Prime Service Area is usually within 50 miles of a MTF, but can be located in other areas (beneficiaries may call their nearest TRICARE Service Center in CONUS to determine if they are in a Prime area). TRICARE Europe beneficiaries are encouraged to enroll in their gaining region *as soon as* they arrive in CONUS to avoid enrollment/claims problems and to aid in access to care.

### ***Relocating to a CONUS Remote Location***

If Active Duty family members relocate outside of a TRICARE Prime service area, they may remain enrolled in TRICARE Europe Prime or Prime Remote for up to 210 days with the following conditions:

(1) Once the U.S. State Department declares that it is safe for U.S. citizens to return to a particular location, family members will have 30 days from this notification date to return to their overseas home in order to remain enrolled in Prime. Family members may not remain enrolled in TRICARE Europe Prime or TRICARE Europe Prime Remote if they choose to remain in CONUS for a period exceeding this 30-day time period.

(2) If a *permanent* order to evacuate a given location is issued, beneficiaries may remain in TRICARE Europe Prime up to 30 days from the date of this notification. On the 31<sup>st</sup> day after this notification, family members will revert to CONUS TRICARE Standard. A “permanent order to evacuate” means that family members *may not return* to their overseas location as *sponsored dependants* of their Active Duty spouse.

AD family members may check the CONUS TRICARE Prime Remote Web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil/remote](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/remote) and type in their CONUS zip code or call their regional Beneficiary Information Line (contact numbers available at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil)) to determine if a location is in a stateside Prime Remote area.

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that CONUS TRICARE Prime Remote Active Duty Family Member Program (TPRADFM) is separate and distinct from TRICARE Europe Prime Remote.

### **Dental Coverage**

Individuals who are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program will be able to continue using the program while in CONUS. In CONUS there are co-pays for all services except annual routine check-ups and cleanings. Beneficiaries may enroll in the TDP at any time. Since access to military dental care is extremely limited in CONUS for AD family members, beneficiaries could face high dental costs if not enrolled in the TDP. You can learn more about applicable co-pays and the TRICARE Dental Program at [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com).

### **DEERS**

When Active Duty family members return to the states without their sponsor, they only need to update their address in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) if they change enrollment status (for example, if they move to an area in the U.S. where Prime is offered, they must change their enrollment to that region and update DEERS).

DEERS information may be verified or updated by contacting or visiting the nearest uniformed services personnel office. Beneficiaries may also contact the DEERS office at 1-800-538-9552, or visit [www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/). This address must be updated again once beneficiaries return overseas.

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If you have problems or questions about your health care overseas or in CONUS, contact the TRICARE Europe Centralized TRICARE Service Center at commercial 011-49-302-67-7433/34 or toll free (from the U.S.) at 1-888-777-8343. In CONUS, you may also call the TRICARE Health Care Finder at (800) 242-6788.

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